



# Arc Over

Fox River Radio  
League  
PO Box 673  
Batavia, IL  
60150-0673

October, 2007

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## President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

Excitement! Ham radio at it's very best was displayed this past month, and there's more to come!

On the 5th of September, members of the FRRL were on hand at the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin to establish contact with the International Space Station. Sixteen students from the Elgin area asked twenty questions of Astronaut Clay Anderson and were delighted and amazed at the clear communication and fun and educational answers he provided. We will take a look at some video of the event during the October meeting as well as photos taken of the Chicago area by Clay as the contact progressed. He emailed them to us directly from the ISS! Special thanks go to John AG9D, Bill W9WRS, Ken N9WCX, Dean KC9EOQ, Dick AH6EZ, Chris KC9IEQ, Joe AB9OU and Eric KC9FQV for their support.

Special Event Station W9H at the Huntley Fall Fest was a huge success. Many members of the FRRL got together at Deicke Park on the 15th of September to support event chairperson Joe AB9OU and his assistant Bill W9WRS. Logistical communications between event organizers proved to be a valuable asset for the 2nd Annual event. There are some wonderful pictures, an event summary and a list of Operators, and the States and Countries that were contacted on the club's web site. Check it out!

Our September meeting was held on the 18th rather than the 11th due to a facility power transformer issue at the Prisco Community Center. We discovered the building closure at about 7pm on the 11th. I have spoken with the staff at the Center and have asked that in the future, if at all possible, we be given some advance notice if a sudden facility closure occurs. They have agreed and apologized for the inconvenience to our members.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Also a special thank you to Adam KC9ITG and his capable net control operators for announcing the meeting change and holding a special 2 meter net that evening!

During the September meeting we held our "Leadership Roundtable" exercise. The attending membership was divided into four groups. Each of the groups discussed one of the following topics: 1) Review the following 2007 club events: Field Day & Hamfest; 2) Discuss operating events, i.e. Huntley Fall Fest, Scarecrow Festival. Do members wish to see additional events, what type, how often?; 3) Ham radio in our communities. Discuss how we may better introduce ham radio to our local communities, i.e. displays at local libraries, school display cases. Offer to demonstrate ham radio to school classes, etc.; 4) Future leadership development. What do you expect from your ham club, how is it meeting your expectations, how can you become involved.

If you were unable to attend the September meeting, and have comments or suggestions, you are always welcome to voice your ideas. Simply drop me or any Board member an email or note. We enjoy hearing from you. You are what makes this club great! Results of the Roundtable will be published here in the Arc Over as well as the FRRL Yahoo Groups message board.

Ready to carve a pumpkin, eat a burger and get on the air? Saturday Oct. 6th FRRL members will be operating special event station W9CEQ from 10am to 6pm commemorating the 22nd Annual St. Charles Scarecrow Festival. This year we will again meet at Kermit W9XA's QTH in Batavia. Plan to attend. We will operate on 20 meters, and other bands if conditions allow. A special certificate will be issued to all who make a contact using the spe-

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Minutes of the Delayed Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the  
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation  
Held at the Prisco Center in Aurora, IL  
Meeting Minutes September 18, 2007**

Meeting delayed one week due to Prisco Community Center being closed due to power transformer issues.

7:31PM called the meeting to order by Greg Braun, N9CHA, President with 53 members/guests present. As each of the members introduced themselves, they were counted off in groups of 4 in preparation for the evenings Leadership Roundtable event.

Minutes of the previous meeting were posted to the web, printed in the Arc Over.

Treasurers Report: \$7,484 Checking/Savings, \$16,293 Certificates of Deposit

**Committee Reports:**

Database: 189 members. Any changes see Chris KC9BKS, database manager.

Newsletter: Comment from Bill KB9YSI about bouncing Emails using his ISP. Asked if anyone could help him correct this issue. Dave N9CTO offered to help. Issue arose when trying to send September meeting announcement.

Webmaster: All sections have been updated. Pictures, article and contact summary from the Huntley Fall Fest (W9H) are now posted.

Next Gen: Radio Fair special event to be held on Sunday Oct. 7th at Our Savior Lutheran Church. 1pm to 5pm. Please see [www.frll.org](http://www.frll.org) for more details.

VE: The September VE session was conducted simultaneously with the membership meeting. The VE team set up in the basement, while the membership meeting was held in room 102.

ARES DuPage County: Kent W9NDW asked for any and all volunteers for an Urban Search and Rescue event being held by the Naperville EMA/CERT teams on 29 September 2007. Please contact Kent for more details.

ARES Kane County: Eric KC9FQV announced the county wide SET (Simulated Emergency Test) will be held on 20 October 2007.

Special Event: Scarecrow Festival October 6th. 10am to 6pm. Location: Kermit W9XA's QTH in Batavia. All members are invited to operate, socialize, and carve pumpkins. Lunch will be provided, donations will be accepted. Program: Propagation forecasts, WWV and beacons.

At 7:45, President Greg Braun N9CHA asked all board members present to collect their respective members and deliberate the following questions: Group 1; Leader = Denny W9HI; Review the following 2007 club events: Field Day and Hamfest. Group 2; Leader = Dick AH6EZ and Charles KC9DAO; Discuss operating events, i.e. Huntley Fall Fest, Scarecrow Festival. Do members wish to see additional events, what type, how often. Group 3; Leader = Tobi K9TCD; Ham radio in our communities: Discuss how we may better introduce ham radio to our local communities, i.e. displays at local libraries, school display cases. Offer to demonstrate ham radio to school classes, etc. Group 4; Leader = Greg N9CHA and Dean KC9EOQ; Future leadership development. What do you expect from your ham club, how is it meeting your expectations, how can you become involved.

All four groups dispersed throughout the Prisco Center and deliberated until 8:40. A 20 minute debrief from each of the 4 group leaders was then conducted. Details of each group will be published in the Arc Over and uploaded to the files section of the FRRL Yahoo Groups.

Motion to adjourn by Bart, seconded by Craig. No raffle. Program to follow.

Adjourned at 9:00 pm

Greg Braun, N9CHA for John Spasojevich, AG9D, Secretary

## President's Traffic

(Continued from page 1)

cial event station. All those who contact us will receive a commemorative QSL card. A noon meal will be available and contributions to offset the expenses will be accepted. Please contact me for further info.

The NextGen Hams "Radio Fair" will be held on Sunday the 7th of October. Kids of all ages are invited along with their parents to participate. Starting at 1 pm and going to 5 pm, Tobi K9TCD and her able assistants have planned a very fun, and hands on event. More information is on our web site, or you can contact Tobi at [tngams@frrl.org](mailto:tngams@frrl.org).

Yet another October event is the Illinois QSO Party being held this year on Sunday the 21st. I encourage all FRRL members to participate in order to help our aggregate score. We've won this event in

the past, let's get together and do it again! This event offers you a chance to enhance your operating skills, set up a mini-field day site, strategize and pre-plan your set up and have fun. The QSO Party runs from Noon to 8 PM and operates from 160 through 2 meters, excluding 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters. Check out the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club's web site at [www.w9awe.org](http://www.w9awe.org) for further details.

The October meeting will be very exciting. We'll have videos being projected, pictures and reports from current events, and news about our club nomination and election process. Plus Dick AH6EZ has a terrific program lined up. I'll see you there on Tuesday, October 9th.

73, Greg N9CHA  
FRRL President, 2007

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## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update— September, 2007

By John Spasojevich, AG9D

It's Fall, and the FRRL HF Challenge 2007 enters the final quarter. If you are short on time these next months offer some good opportunities as we enter contest season. By the time you have read this the CQ WW (World Wide) RTTY Contest will be history; this is a great contest for people interested in digital modes. The end of October brings the CQ WW SSB Contest; if you like the microphone better than the sound card interface, this one is for you.

November brings two contests, the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes and the CW WW CW DX Contest for those of you that don't have mics or sound cards! December, the last month for the 2007 Challenge, brings us the ARRL 160 Meter Contest and the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Even with poor conditions there may be some activity on 10 during the contest so give a listen and be sure to count any new states, provinces or DX worked toward your Challenge score.

October also has some interesting state QSO Parties, including the Illinois QSO Party on October 21, 2007. For info visit the WIARC web site at <http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP2007.html>.

Remember, the deadline for submitting your monthly updates is the 15th of each month.

73,

John  
AG9D

## Kendall County ARES® Rolling on the River Event Summary

By Chris Kennell, KC9BKS

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> the Kendall Co. Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) supported the Illinois Environmental Council with safety and support communications for their week-end long fund raising event. This year due to flooding the canoe and kayak events for Saturday and Sunday were canceled but the bicycle ride on Saturday was in full swing with an estimated 485 bikers on 14, 25, 44, 64, and 100 mile routes. The start was delayed a half hour due to flooding along the route which in turn made the day run a little longer than expected. Amateur Radio operators didn't just assist SAG, we were SAG for this event. Along with SAG and Net Control we provided communications for the six rest stop areas and provided shadow communications for the two directors (Event director and Operations director). In all, 22 HAM radio operators were involved.

Assistance to the Kendall Co. ARES® was provided by LaSalle Co. ARES®, Grundy Co. ARES®, Kane Co. ARES®, Cook Co. ARES®, Naperville PD Amateur Radio Operators, and the Fox River Radio League, FRRL.

For Net control operations we had the luxury of using a modified construction trailer made personally by Mark, K9ZQ to be a HAM Radio mobile command center. We tested the Grundy Co. portable repeater in its first deployment – we learn that there are still some tweaks to be made but we did prove that it could be set up quickly to become an operational repeater. Bob, AB9EE was involved in a nursing home evacuation in Morris so was unable to deliver the portable repeater until the morn-

ing of the event. The Yorkville repeater worked flawlessly for our primary operations. Cell phone connectivity was very spotty throughout the route area including at the net control location causing the operator running the phone bank (2 phones) to be stationed in a separate location from the radio operators.

An emergency cell phone number was provided to riders to call Net Control if they needed assistance during the ride. In all we had 13 SAG transports and about 60 calls to the event emergency phone number. Net control, worked the communications to the cell phone operator, the shadow operators, and on-grounds operations using the deployed Grundy Co. ARES® portable repeater and the off ground operations (SAG, Rest Stop support, Sign troubleshooting, Sweep, and Sign pickup) using the Yorkville repeater. The APRS mode was used by net control to track some SAG operators (those with that mode available).

I guess it's all summed up by the comments back to us by the Rolling on the River Event Director:

*"Your team was PHENOMENAL!!! You were responsive, wonderful to work with, and grace under pressure...."* In her letter of thanks to us, she also said: *"What else can we do for you next year (other than to say THANK YOU!!!)? I wouldn't do this without your team....so hope you'll hang in there with us next year!"*

Thanks to all who helped.

Dirk Wolgast, W9QA, Kendall Co. ARES EC,  
Chris Kennell, KC9BKS, Kendall Co. ARES® Asst.  
EC / Member FRRL

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## KC9DAO Wins Hamfest Prize

Charles Penninger, KC9DAO, won the \$200.00 dollar prize drawing of the members selling Hamfest tickets. Congratulations to Charles!

## Nominating Committee Named

The Nominating Committee for the 2008/9 Officers and Directors has been announced by the Board. The committee will consist of John Spasojevich, AG9D, Chairman; and members Dean Holste, KC9EOQ, and Craig Crozier, AB9IV.

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Scores— September, 2007

Here are the current standings for the 2007 HF Challenge as of September 15.

<b>Ragchew Class</b>	<b>States/Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
W9DTR	-	-	61
K9FE	-	-	54
N9YA	-	-	31
K9IH	-	-	21
AH6EZ	-	-	12
KC9FQV	-	-	9
NA9A	-	-	8
KC9CHG	-	-	7
KC9EOQ	-	-	5
WB9CHY	-	-	3

<b>Operator Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
W9DTR	50/9	105	164
N9CV	50/11	80	141
K9FE	48/11	63	122
K9IH	47/8	52	107
K9TCD	43/4	47	94
N9YA	50/6	18	74
KC9EOQ	27/4	33	64
KC9FQV	38/3	15	56
WB9CHY	22/1	6	29
KB9YSI	15/3	7	25
KC9CHG	19/0	0	19

<b>Limited Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
K9ARZ— PSK	50/9	110	169

<b>QRO Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
NA9A	37/3	191	231
AH6EX/W9	49/12	141	202
N4LZ (W4CEQ)	45/6	89	140

## October Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Thanks to Lou K9LU, the October Program will be a DVD of a 2000 DXpedition to Clipperton Island. With the late Sept meeting, there was not much time to prepare something more educational but this should be a lot of fun to watch.

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## New Members

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

Here is a list of new members that have joined since the last newsletter. There have been several more that are not listed here due to publication deadlines; they will be listed next month. The most recent membership number I have heard (at the CFMC Hamfest) was 196 members.

Please extend a friendly welcome to all of these hams when you hear them on the air or see them at a club meeting.

Call	Name	License Class
KC9KKI	Peter Coons	General
K9TOS	Fred Goldenson	General
KC9LWY	Tyler Kennell	Tech
KB9YFY	Erick Saley	Tech
KC9JNQ	Suzanne Spencer	Tech
KC9MED	Jason Verachttert	Tech

## About the FRRL

The Fox River Radio League, Inc., is a general interest amateur radio club serving the central Fox River Valley area. Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1924, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, and a 501©(3) tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes.

We sponsor training classes for new hams, license examination sessions, an annual hamfest, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

The Fox River Radio League meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Prisco Community Center in Aurora, Illinois. Information tables are open at 7:00 PM, and the

meeting begins at 7:30 PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented.

All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome.

*We hope to see you there!*

## License Exams

The Fox River Radio League, Inc., in conjunction with the ARRL VEC, conducts amateur examinations on the 3rd Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November in the basement of the Prisco Community Center, 150 W. Illinois Street, (South East corner of Lake and Illinois) in Aurora, IL. at 7:30 PM. No advance registration is required, but please be

sure to bring your license (if you have one) and a photocopy of it, original CSCEs and a photocopy (if needed), some form of photo identification, and the fee of \$14.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

The next exam session is scheduled for November 20, 2007 at the Prisco Center.

## FRRL Dues

Annual dues are payable no later than the January Club Meeting each year. New members joining during the year will have their first year's dues prorated to the nearest yearly quarter.

Regular dues are \$20.00 a year, Senior Citizen dues are \$12.00. Family dues are \$30.00. Members can help support the FRRL Repeaters by making an annual \$10.00 donation.

Check with the Treasurer for details and additional dues rates.

## Nets

Net Name	Freq.	Day	Time
FRRL	147.210	Tuesday	7:30 PM Local
10-10 CW	28.150	Monday	8:00 PM Local
10-10 SSB	28.720	Monday	8:30 PM Local

## Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

### Mailing Address:

Box 673  
Batavia, Illinois  
60510-0673

### Email:

info@frrl.org

### Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

#### President

Greg Braun, N9CHA

#### Vice President

Denny Barfuss, W9HI

#### Secretary

John Spasojevich, AG9D

#### Treasurer

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

#### Directors:

Mike Bentley, K9FBI

Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Charles Penninger,  
KC9DAO

#### Past President

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

#### License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

#### Newsletter Editor

Bill Muhr, KB9YSI  
newsletter@frrl.org

#### Webmaster

Tom Davis, WB9CHY  
webmaster@frrl.org



FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PRISCO COMMUNITY CENTER AT 150 WEST ILLINOIS STREET IN AURORA. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION .

<http://www.frrl.org>

## Handy Web Links

<b>FRRL Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.frri.org/">http://www.frri.org/</a>
ARRL Main Site	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/">http://www.arrl.org/</a>
ARRL Central Div. Site	<a href="http://www.central.arrl.org/">http://www.central.arrl.org/</a>
ARRL IL Section Site	<a href="http://www.central.arrl.org/illinois.html">http://www.central.arrl.org/illinois.html</a>
ARRL IL Section News	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=IL">http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=IL</a>
ARRL Contest Page	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests/">http://www.arrl.org/contests/</a>
Contest Calendar	<a href="http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/">http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/</a>
Callsign Lookup (QRZ)	<a href="http://www.qrz.com/">http://www.qrz.com/</a>
Vanity Callsign Info	<a href="http://www.vanityhq.com/">http://www.vanityhq.com/</a>
IRLP Main Page	<a href="http://www.irlp.net/">http://www.irlp.net/</a>
AMSAT	<a href="http://www.amsat.org/">http://www.amsat.org/</a>
FCC Services	<a href="http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur">http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur</a>
SMC Contest Club	<a href="http://www.w9smc.com/">http://www.w9smc.com/</a>

Send Address Corrections to:  
 Fox River Radio League, Inc.  
 40W981 Bridle Creek Drive  
 St Charles, Illinois  
 60175

### FRRL Event Calendar

#### October, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting .....2  
 Scarecrow Station.....6  
 Kids Radio Fair .....7  
 FRRL Meeting.....9  
 Illinois QSO Party.....21

#### November, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting .....6  
 FRRL Meeting.....13  
 VE Testing .....20

### ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

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The ArcOver is published monthly by the Fox River Radio League, Inc. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is six days prior to the end of the previous month. Articles can be sent by email to [arcover@frri.org](mailto:arcover@frri.org) or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

Prior permission is required to republish original ArcOver material.

The opinions expressed in the ArcOver are strictly those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the FRRL, Inc. or its sponsors.

### Local Area Repeaters/Nets

**W9CEQ—147.210 Mhz.**  
 +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone  
 Owned by FRRL

**W9CEQ—444.300 Mhz. IRLP Node # 4850**  
 +5 Mhz, 114.8 access tone  
 Owned by FRRL

**W9CEQ\_B D-Star—442.10625 Mhz (-5.0 Mhz offset)**  
**W9CEQ\_C D-Star—145.270 Mhz (-0.600 Mhz offset)**  
 FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeaters  
 Contact W9XA for information

**KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz. (Kane Co. SKYWARN)**  
 -600 KHz, 103.5 access tone  
 Owned by Kane County OEM

**W9DWP—Kane Co. Amateur Public Svc. Rptrs.**  
 145.270 -600 KHz, 107.2 access tone  
 443.025 +5 Mhz 114.8 access tone

- Weekly ARES Net—Mon. Eve. at 9:00 pm local time on the W9DWP repeaters
- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Kane County OEM Skywarn Net— Wed. Eve. at 7:00 pm on the KC9OEM repeater.